

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action of November 17, 2010, claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP-04120900 (“Nonaka”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,668,588 (“Kishima”) and JP-01193847 (“Fukazawa et al.”). In addition, claims 6, 8-10 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of Kishima, Fukazawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,716,462 (“Brennan ‘462”), U.S. Patent No. 2,408,038 (“Brennan ‘038”), U.S. Patent No. 3,093,207 (“Bozak”), U.S. Patent No. 4,324,312 (“Durbin”) and/or “Synthesis and properties of UV curable waterborne hyperbranched aliphatic polyester” by Anila Asif and Wenfan Shi (“Asif et al.”).

In response, Applicants have canceled claim 2, and have amended claims 1, 20 and 21. As amended, Applicants respectfully assert that the independent claim 1 is not obvious over Nonaka in view of Kishima and Fukazawa et al., as explained below. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of pending claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 20-22.

A. Patentability of Independent Claim 1

As amended, the independent claim 1 recites in part “*applying at least one liquid plastic with adhesive properties at least in part-areas of at least one surface of the membrane, the part-areas including a central area, a transition area and a creased area of the at least one surface of the membrane, the transition area being situated to surround the central area, the creased area being situated to surround the transition area, the transition area being configured to be coupled to a moving coil of the electroacoustic transducer, wherein the applying of the at least one liquid plastic includes spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the central area using a first spray nozzle, spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the transition area using a second spray nozzle, and spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the creased area using a third spray nozzle,*” which are not taught in Nonaka, Kishima or Fukazawa et al. Thus, even if the teachings of Nonaka, Kishima

or Fukazawa et al. are combined, the combination would not render the amended claim 1 obvious. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

The cited reference of Nonaka teaches forming a polyphosphazene resin layer on a surface of a diaphragm for a loudspeaker. However, Nonaka fails to teach that the surface of the diaphragm has different areas that are sprayed exclusively using three spray nozzles. Thus, Nonaka fails to teach the limitations of “*applying at least one liquid plastic with adhesive properties at least in part-areas of at least one surface of the membrane, the part-areas including a central area, a transition area and a creased area of the at least one surface of the membrane, the transition area being situated to surround the central area, the creased area being situated to surround the transition area, the transition area being configured to be coupled to a moving coil of the electroacoustic transducer, wherein the applying of the at least one liquid plastic includes spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the central area using a first spray nozzle, spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the transition area using a second spray nozzle, and spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the creased area using a third spray nozzle,*” as recited in the amended independent claim 1.

The cited reference of Kishima teaches coating a polycarbonate molded object with an abrasion resistant cured layer comprising an ultraviolet ray setting paint for weather resistance and abrasion resistance. However, the teachings of Kishima are not directed to electroacoustic transducers or loudspeakers. Consequently, Kishima fails to teach a membrane for an electroacoustic transducer having different areas that are sprayed exclusively using three spray nozzles. Thus, Kishima also fails to teach the limitations of “*applying at least one liquid plastic with adhesive properties at least in part-areas of at least one surface of the membrane, the part-areas including a central area, a transition area and a creased area of the at least one surface of the membrane, the transition area being situated to surround the central area, the creased area being situated to surround the transition area, the transition area being configured to be coupled to a moving coil of the electroacoustic transducer, wherein the applying of the at least one liquid plastic includes spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the central area using a first spray nozzle, spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the transition area using a second spray nozzle, and spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the creased area using a third spray nozzle,*”

one liquid plastic exclusively to the transition area using a second spray nozzle, and spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the creased area using a third spray nozzle,” as recited in the amended independent claim 1.

The cited reference of Fukazawa et al. teaches uniformly coating a UV curing type resin liquid on a card-shaped photographic sensitive material. However, similar to Kishima, the teachings of Fukazawa et al. are not directed to electroacoustic transducers or loudspeakers. Consequently, Fukazawa et al. fails to teach a membrane for an electroacoustic transducer having different areas that are sprayed exclusively using three spray nozzles. Thus, Fukazawa et al. also fails to teach the above-identified limitations of the amended independent claim 1.

Since Nonaka, Kishima and Fukazawa et al. fail to teach the above-identified limitations of the amended independent claim 1, even if the teachings of Nonaka, Kishima or Fukazawa et al. are combined, the combination would not render the amended claim 1 obvious. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

Applicants notes herein that none of the other cited references teach the limitations of “*applying at least one liquid plastic with adhesive properties at least in part-areas of at least one surface of the membrane, the part-areas including a central area, a transition area and a creased area of the at least one surface of the membrane, the transition area being situated to surround the central area, the creased area being situated to surround the transition area, the transition area being configured to be coupled to a moving coil of the electroacoustic transducer, wherein the applying of the at least one liquid plastic includes spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the central area using a first spray nozzle, spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the transition area using a second spray nozzle, and spraying the at least one liquid plastic exclusively to the creased area using a third spray nozzle,*” as recited in the amended independent claim 1. Thus, the amended independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of the other cited references. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

B. Patentability of Dependent Claims 4, 6-10 and 20-22

Each of the dependent claims 4, 6-10 and 20-22 depends on the amended independent claim 1. As such, these dependent claims include all the limitations of the independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that these dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as the amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, these dependent claims may be allowable for additional reasons.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:
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